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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: G. Gundling

Application No.: 09/470,944

Filed: December 22, 1999

Title: NUCLEIC ACID ISOLATION

METHOD AND KIT

Case No.: 6653.US.01

Group Art No.: 1656

FEB 06 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Examiner: A. Spiegler

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as Regular Mail in an envelope addressed to the:

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT A

In response to the Office Action dated September 12, 2000, please enter the following claims and consider the following remarks. A copy of all the claims as pending are attached as a separate document as well as a copy of the amended claims markedup to show the changes from previously pending claims.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

(Amended) A method for separating nucleic acid from a test 1. sample comprising

contacting a test sample with a metal oxide support material and a binding buffer to form nucleic acid/metal oxide complexes, wherein the binding buffer comprises a chaotropic agent and \a detergent;

b) separating the complexes from the test sample; and